

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter contained therein in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Please add the following claims:

28. (New) A method for recovering a desired target nucleic acid molecule from a sample comprising:

- (A) incubating said sample in the presence of a haptenylated nucleic acid probe molecule under conditions sufficient to permit said probe to hybridize to said desired target molecule thereby forming a hybridized molecule;
- (B) incubating said hybridized molecule in the presence of a binding ligand under conditions sufficient to permit said hybridized molecule to become bound to said binding ligand;
- (C) obtaining said hybridized molecule and treating said molecule under conditions sufficient to make said molecule double stranded; and
- (D) transforming a host cell with said double stranded molecule.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said incubation in (A) is under conditions which minimize random hybridization.
30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule.
31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said sample comprises a mixture or library of DNA molecules.
32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is circular.
33. (New) The method of claim claim 28, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is linear.
34. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of single-stranded plasmids, single-stranded cosmids and single-stranded phagemids.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is a single-stranded plasmid.
36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is a single-stranded cosmid.

37. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is a single-stranded phagemid.

38. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said target nucleic acid molecule is a double-stranded DNA molecule.

39. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said hapten is biotin.

40. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein said biotin molecule is covalently bonded to the 3' terminus of said probe.

41. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said binding ligand is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, an antibody that binds biotin and an antibody fragment that binds biotin.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said binding ligand is avidin.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said binding ligand is streptavidin.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said binding ligand is an antibody that binds biotin.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein said binding ligand is an antibody fragment that binds biotin.
46. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said binding ligand is bound to a support.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said support is a paramagnetic bead.
48. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said probe has a degenerate sequence.

In the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached Figure 1 for the currently pending Figure 1.